



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Applicant: Craig A. Hobbs, *et al.*  
Serial No.: 10/811,234                      Group Art Unit: 2124  
Filed: March 26, 2004                      Docket: 60001.0305US01/MS305256.1  
Title: Method and System for Formulaically Bounding Data in a Spreadsheet

**CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8:**  
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on May 4, 2006.  
By: Colin S. Wright  
Name: Colin S. Wright

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

**27488**  
PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Sir:

We are transmitting herewith the attached:

- ☒ Transmittal Sheet in duplicate containing Certificate of Mailing
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement and fee of \$180
- ☒ Return postcard

Please consider this a PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME for a sufficient number of months to enter these papers or any future reply, if appropriate. Please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725. A duplicate of this sheet is enclosed.

Merchant & Gould P.C.  
P.O. Box 2903  
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903  
612.332.5300

By: Colin S. Wright  
Name: Colin S. Wright  
Reg. No.: 57,202  
CSW

S/N 10/811,234



PATENT

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b))

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This statement should be considered because it is submitted before the mailing date of a first Office Action on-the-merits. Please charge Deposit Account No. 13-2725 in the amount of \$180 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) for filing of the Information Disclosure Statement.

At least some of the features disclosed in the patent application identified above (hereinafter "the Application") may have been included in a beta release of Microsoft Office software, which occurred in October 2002. Therefore, it is possible some of the system code incorporating the described implementations was disclosed to a controlled set of users more than one year before the filing date of the Application. This beta release of the Office software, which was conducted for testing purposes, included approximately five thousand users. It is significant to note that the beta release was distributed to a fixed number of users, and each user acknowledged a Microsoft non-disclosure agreement. The non-disclosure agreement included the following clause:

05/10/2006 CNEGA1 00000007 13E7E5 10811234

01 FC:1806 180.00 DA

7. CONFIDENTIALITY. The Product, including its existence and features, and related information are proprietary and confidential information to Microsoft and its suppliers. Recipient agrees not to disclose or provide the Product, documentation, or any related information (including the Product features or the results of use or testing) to any third party, prior to commercial release of the Product. However, Recipient may disclose confidential information in accordance with judicial or other governmental order, provided Recipient shall give Microsoft reasonable written notice prior to such disclosure and shall comply with any applicable protective order or equivalent. Further, Recipient shall not be liable to Microsoft for disclosure of information which Recipient can prove (a) is already known to Recipient without an obligation to maintain the same as confidential; (b) becomes publicly known through no wrongful act of Recipient; (c) is rightfully received from a third party without breach of an obligation of confidentiality owed to Microsoft; or (d) is independently developed by Recipient. The obligations of this Section 7 are in addition to the terms of any confidentiality or non-disclosure agreement that may exist between Microsoft and Recipient.

Since the beta release was distributed to a fixed number of users that acknowledged the above confidentiality clause, Applicants believe submission of the claims in the Application is proper.

No representation is made that a reference is "prior art" within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 and Applicants reserve the right, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 or otherwise, to establish that the reference(s) are not "prior art." Moreover, Applicants do not represent that a reference has been thoroughly reviewed or that any relevance of any portion of a reference is intended.

Consideration of the items listed is respectfully requested. Pursuant to the provisions of M.P.E.P. 609, it is requested that the Examiner return a copy of the attached Form 1449, marked as being considered and initialed by the Examiner, to the undersigned with the next official communication.

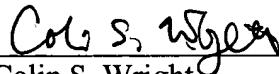
S/N 10/811,234

Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD, LLC

Date: May 4, 2006

  
Colin S. Wright  
Reg. No. 57,202

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